

[27th August 1926]

A.—(a) A copy of the report submitted to the Government of India by the Committee has been received by the Government of Madras;

(b) & (c) The question of publication of the report is one for the Government of India;

(d) The question is not clear. The total number of Mappilla prisoners transported to the Andamans since 1922 is one thousand three hundred and twenty-six. The number transported under the Colonization scheme is one. As regards the families of the convicts, the attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to question No. 442-A, clause (i), on 26th August 1925.

(e) It is believed that the condition of their health is satisfactory.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—“With reference to clause (e) the answer is ‘it is believed that the condition of their health is satisfactory’. May I know on what grounds it is believed so?”

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“From the reports received, Sir.”

Pensions.

Applications for commutation of pensions.

* 2359 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the number of pending applications for commutation of pensions from (1) menials, (2) Non-gazetted officers, (3) Provincial Service officers and (4) Imperial Service officers, and the date of the longest pending application in each of the four classes;

(b) the provision made in the budget for commutation of pensions and how it has been distributed among the various classes of pensions;

(c) whether it is a fact that before the official year had hardly run three months, there were no funds for the Provincial Service men;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Imperial Service officers are treated differently from the Provincial Service officers, the former being allowed the concession as a matter of course, while the latter are not; and

(e) whether the Secretary of State has given it as his view that commutation should not ordinarily be deferred or refused, except on medical grounds and, if so, the steps taken by the Government to give effect to the above view and dispose of the pending applications?

A.—(a) Of the applications for commutation of pensions received up to 15th July 1926, the number pending final disposal under each of the four classes, together with the dates of the longest pending applications, is given below:—

Class.	Number.	Date of the longest pending application.
Menials ...	Nil.	...
Non-gazetted officers ...	455	1st April 1925.
Gazetted officers ...	46	1st April 1925.
All-India Service officers ...	2	23rd March 1926.

These figures exclude cases in which the commutation of pension is inadmissible.

27th August 1926]

(b) Rupees 6 lakhs.

Excluding the provision for expenditure in England and payments to be made to other Governments, the existing allotment has been provisionally distributed as follows :—

	RS.
All-India Services	76,000
Gazetted officers	1,16,700
Non-gazetted officers	2,70,000

The distribution of allotments between gazetted and non-gazetted officers has been made in proportion to the amounts required to meet their demands.

- (c) The allotment of Rs. 1,16,700 for gazetted officers was sufficient only for the applications received up to 10th November 1925. In all these cases medical certificates have been called for; and if any of the applications under reference is rejected or withdrawn, fresh cases of gazetted officers covering the amounts released, will be taken up for disposal. A demand for a supplementary grant for Rs. 3·50 lakhs to enable all pending cases to be disposed of this year will be placed before the Legislative Council.
- (d) The commutation of pensions of officers who are not governed by the Civil Pensions (Commutation) Rules framed by the Secretary of State, is subject to the condition imposed by the Local Government that the expenditure can be met from the sanctioned budget grants. The Secretary of State's Rules, which apply to All-India Services, contain no such condition.
- (e) The views quoted in the question have not been communicated to this Government. But as stated in the answer to clause (c), the Government are asking the Council to vote an additional grant of Rs. 3·50 lakhs which it is hoped will be sufficient to dispose of all pending applications.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“When is the supplementary demand for Rs. 3·5 lakhs going to be made, Sir ?”

The hon. Mr. T. E. MOIR :—“It is proposed to do so in the present meeting of the Council.”

Civil Justice.

Upper grade posts in the Judicial department, North Arcot district.

* 2360 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that all posts in the upper grade, Rs. 60—4—80 and above in the North Arcot district, Judicial Department, unlike other districts, have been filled by Brahmins ?

A.—The facts are as stated as regards the North Arcot district.

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“May I know why the communal Government Order was not given effect to especially in the Judicial Department in the North Arcot district ?”